

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FAIR AND EQUAL HOUSE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I am re-introducing with my colleague Representative ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON the District of Columbia Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act. This legislation has now been considered through several Congresses. It is no longer a novel idea. Nevertheless, the need for this legislation is stronger than ever and I call on the Congress to pass it without delay. We can't credibly struggle to make other parts of the world safe for democracy if we continue to deny it to residents of our Nation's Capital.

This bill pairs two injustices in such a way as to create a politically neutral solution for both. The first injustice—that the citizens of the District of Columbia have no direct representation in the House of the United States Congress—has existed since Congress took away representation in 1800. The second injustice—the failure to count all of the residents of Utah in the last Census—is more recent. Historically, it takes just this kind of marriage to create a viable solution.

We had a great deal of success in moving this bipartisan legislation last Congress. In our committee, a strong majority of both parties voted to pass this legislation. Over the last 3 years, it has been gratifying to watch members of my own party consider the problem and accept this solution. We now have the support of conservatives, moderates, and liberals. Unfortunately, we were unable to get the bill to the floor in the rush that ensued last December.

Ironically, it was a rush to pass legislation that created this problem in 1800. In the lame duck session following the election of Thomas Jefferson of Virginia as president and the Whigs to the majority in 1800, Federalists rushed to pass legislation to set up some structure for the District of Columbia. Congress was silent on District voting rights in spite of having granted voting rights to District residents 10 years earlier in the Residence Act that created a Federal district.

Now, over 200 years later, Congress has before it a principled and workable compromise solution. This bill does two simple things. It treats the District of Columbia as a congressional district for the purposes of representation in the House of Representatives, and permanently increases Congress to 437 members.

After 3 years of research, it is clear that Congress does have the authority to grant the District a seat in the House of Representatives. This House, which we refer to as the "People's House," represents the people of the several states. Some scholars have tried to parse the phrase to mean that state residents only are represented.

But when this phrase was drafted there was no Federal District. The "People of the Several States" means all Americans.

Congress has recognized this by allowing Americans living overseas to vote in House elections despite the fact they are no longer residents of any state. Overseas Americans are allowed to vote in their last state of residence even if they never intend to return to that state.

There always seems to be some reason to keep from doing a good thing. In our personal lives we all put off the easy act of common graciousness because we're busy or because we're tired or because someone treated us unfairly. This makes sense at the time, but in the end we are all poorer for missing the opportunity.

The same is true with this legislation. Maybe you don't like the permanent increase in the size of Congress. Maybe you want to protect "states rights" in redistricting. Maybe you wish this addressed the Senate as well. Maybe you just don't know for sure what the Sixth Congress intended when they created this problem.

I would ask every member of this body to look up for a minute and look at the people we live with here in the District. Is there anything really gained by refusing them direct representation in the Federal Government? I say no.

It is time to make a change in the way this District is governed. It is time to tell the 550,000 District citizens that we recognize their inalienable right to participate in the decisions that affect their lives every day.

Let's not—once again—miss the chance to do the good thing. Justice should no longer have to wait.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. PETRO JAMES ROUSSOS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Mobile County and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Mr. Petro James Roussos, known as "Pete" to his many friends and family, was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life.

Although he was originally from Seminole, OK, Pete spent the majority of his life in Mobile. He attended Murphy High School, where he played football and was elected to the All-City Squad. He received about a dozen scholarship offers before choosing to attend Auburn University, where he went on to play football on the 1954 and 1955 teams. He also was a member of the Theta Chi fraternity at Auburn. He finished school in 1958 graduating from Troy State University.

Not long after graduation, Pete began what was eventually to become a long and storied

career in the restaurant business. In 1963, he opened Pete Roussos' Bonanza Lounge on U.S. 90 near the Skyline Shopping Center. In 1965, he moved from Mobile to Alexandria, LA, where he opened McDonald's Restaurant franchises in Pineville and Lafayette, LA. After returning to Mobile in 1982, he owned and operated, with his uncle, the popular Pier 4 restaurant on the causeway for a period of time. His other businesses included Crabby Pete's in Gulf Shores and Pete Roussos' Restaurant on Azalea Road.

Pete Roussos was the kind of man who would give you the shirt right off his own back. He spent his lifetime working hard and making a name for himself and his family. It is a name not soon to be forgotten in the First District, much less any other place he ever lived. He had the type of personality that would make any restaurant successful. His aura permeated throughout the room and left customers feeling at home and comfortable whenever he was near.

Besides his love for the restaurant business, Pete was also an avid sportsman. He was affiliated with the Coastal Conservation Association of Alabama and was a big supporter of the Alabama Wildlife Foundation. He was an original member of the Mobile Big Game Fishing Club, a supporter of Ducks Unlimited in Mobile, and a major supporter of the Ducks Unlimited Organization in Alexandria during the late 1970s and early 1980s. He was also a member of the American Kennel Club-Mobile Retriever Club from 1962 to 1980.

Madam Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join with me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Pete Roussos loved life and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his wife, Sandra Mitchell Roussos; his two sons, Petro James Roussos, Jr., and Nicholas James Roussos; his daughter, Alexa Kyriaki Roussos; as well as countless friends and loyal employees that he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

LET'S REMEMBER OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE ON THREE KINGS DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Three Kings Day holiday, which is traditionally celebrated on January 6.

For millions around the world, especially Latinos, the final curtain on the holiday season doesn't begin to fall until January 6, Three Kings Day. From El Barrio through Mexico and the Caribbean all the way down to the tip of South America, communities find their own

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

unique way to celebrate the Biblical journey of Balthasar, Melchior, Caspar.

Like Christmas, it is a day for kids and family, a time to exchange gifts and celebrate life. Surely, it is also a time to remember that acts of kindness and generosity should extend well into the year. Yet, perhaps more than any other day of the season, it is day to remember the potential that we all have for greatness, especially our children.

Balthasar, Melchior, Caspar traveled on the wings of hope, believing that a better future lay in the hands of this humble child in the manger. They did not write him off because he was a carpenter's son or because he was poor. They crossed desserts and overcame hurdles because they believed that despite his present conditions, his future was as bright and limitless as the stars that adorned the sky.

Unfortunately, not enough of today's children are at the center of that kind of investment of time and energy. Despite the tireless work of many parents and educators, far too many are falling through the cracks in schools that are ill-equipped to teach them the skills that they need for work and life.

So on this last weekend of the holiday season, let all of us resolve to renew our commitment to our next generation. The private and public sector must work together to arm our children with the necessary tools that they will need to realize their goals and dreams. The future of this great land rests on their shoulders and how many of them have the opportunity to fully shine and reach their full potential.

CONGRATULATING CHRIS BROWNING ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO CHIEF INVESTIGATOR FOR THE ALABAMA ATTORNEY GENERAL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Chris Browning for his dedicated service as the Fairhope chief of police and to offer congratulations on the occasion of his appointment to chief investigator for the Alabama Attorney General.

Chris has served the city of Fairhope since he was 16 years old when he worked as a pay booth attendant at the city beach. His first position with the Fairhope Police Department was as a dispatcher; upon graduation from the police academy, Chris was promoted to patrol officer and later patrol shift supervisor. In 1999, he was promoted to investigator and quickly rose to chief investigator, earning the rank of sergeant. In 2001, Chris was promoted to lieutenant and became chief of police in 2002.

In the midst of his demanding professional schedule, Chris also finds time to serve on a number of regional, state, and local boards: the Baldwin County Drug Task Force, the Baldwin County Gang Task Force, the United States Custom Service Blue Lightning Strike Force, the Alabama Coalition against Domestic Violence, the Fairhope Rotary Boys and Girls Club "Make a Difference" Committee, the Fairhope "Strengthening Our Communities" Committee, the Beverly Healthcare

Community Council, the Baldwin County Court Referral Program Steering Committee, J. Larry Newton School Executive Patron, the Light-house Domestic Violence Program Board of Directors, the Alabama Attorney General's Law Enforcement Advisory Committee, and the Baldwin County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board.

Chris Browning is an outstanding example of the quality of individuals who have devoted their lives to the field of law enforcement. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Chris on his new appointment. I know Chris's colleagues; his wife Renee; his three sons, Scott, Nick and Baxter; his family and many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the citizens of Fairhope and the state of Alabama.

A NEW PATH FOR AMERICA'S IRAQ POLICY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, President Bush's misadventure in Iraq may be the worst foreign policy disaster the United States has ever been involved in. It is good that Saddam Hussein is out of power, but it has come at an incredibly high price. More than 3,000 of America's soldiers have been killed and thousands more have been wounded, many very seriously. And hundreds of billions of tax dollars have been spent, and in some cases wasted, in Iraq. This has occurred because of the errors in judgment, tactical mistakes, and other major missteps by the Bush administration that have plagued this endeavor since the brave men and women in our military ended the tyrannical reign of Saddam Hussein.

In addition to the high cost in lives and dollars that we have suffered, the reasons for going to war in Iraq in the first place have proven faulty. Furthermore, as the recent report from the Iraq Study Group, ISG, states, the situation in Iraq is "grave and deteriorating," with violence among sectarian groups increasing. Threats to security come from many sources, including the Sunni Arab insurgency, Shiite militias, and al Qaeda, not to mention widespread organized crime. Millions of Iraqis have either fled Iraq or are displaced within their country. Given all of this discouraging information, we need to ask—Why are our soldiers still in Iraq and why should they not come home immediately?

Unfortunately, it is not possible to turn back the clock 4 years and start again. The United States and the rest of the world, not to mention the Iraqi people, have to construct a policy that deals with the current conditions that have created new threats. If Iraq did not occupy such a critical place in the world, it might be the best policy for America to simply pull our troops out as soon as safely possible and leave the Iraqi people to work out a solution. But, Iraq is in one of the most important locations in the world, and although the situation in Iraq is dire, it could get much worse.

First, Iraq sits on the world's second largest oil reserves. While I have been working hard to bring about an energy policy that will wean

America and the world off our dependence on this fossil fuel, it will continue to be an extremely valuable commodity for whoever controls it. That is why we must ensure that Iraq's oil does not fall into the hands of radical groups. Oil revenue could be used to fund the spread of radical Islamist revolution to other countries as well as threaten the rest of the world with terrorist attacks. The United States abandoned Afghanistan after the Cold War ended and that country became a haven for terrorists who planned the 9-11 attacks. Iraq would likely become an even worse terrorist training ground.

Second, Iraq is wedged between two countries that have shown themselves to be belligerent, Syria and Iran. Iran is working on building a nuclear weapons capability and has threatened to destroy the state of Israel. Syria has continuously meddled in the affairs of Lebanon and provides ongoing support to terrorists in Palestine. Both of these countries have been active in supporting groups in Iraq who are wreaking havoc and both seek to increase their power by exploiting the situation in Iraq. Leaving Iraq immediately would only embolden these regimes and allow them greater influence throughout the Middle East. Consequently, a stable Iraq is necessary to limit the power of these two dangerous countries.

Third, an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops would create regional instability that could result in a large-scale war. If Iraq falls into complete chaos, Iran and Syria will likely get more directly involved in the fighting. In addition, Saudi Arabia has said that they may intervene militarily in Iraq if they believe it is necessary to stop a widespread slaughter of Iraqi Sunnis. If chaos in Iraq propels Iraqi Kurds to attempt to break away and form their own country in the north of Iraq, Turkey may feel the need to intervene so as to quell any nationalist uprising of Kurds within their own borders. And these are only a few of the likely scenarios for a larger conflict. Clearly, the prospect of a multi-nation war is even less appealing than the current situation, and the United States must act to try to head-off conditions that may lead to such a catastrophe.

As long as there is still hope that we can serve a positive role in Iraq, the U.S. must not abandon Iraq and leave the situation to deteriorate. However, a new strategy in Iraq is needed now. This new Iraq policy must be based on the understanding that the keys to a solution in Iraq are political and social. Although it is important to recognize that an enforcement capability is necessary for security at any given place and time, peace and stability in Iraq cannot be won and maintained simply through military force. Therefore, the United States should implement a new Iraq policy based on three important components:

(1) Bring the world community together to seek solutions in Iraq, including calling an international conference that will work on putting together a peacekeeping force and setting up an international reconstruction program.

(2) Encourage achievement of important goals in national reconciliation, security, and governance by arranging a peace conference for Iraq's ethnic and religious factions, similar to the conference that led to the Dayton Accords.

(3) Require the administration to give Congress detailed reports on the situation in Iraq

so that informed decisions can be made regarding funding Iraq's reconstruction and deciding when American forces can be redeployed.

First, the United States must bring the world community together to seek solutions in Iraq. Iraq's oil reserves, strategic location in the Middle East, and its potential to become a failed-state breeding ground for international terrorism dictate that the entire international community has an interest in Iraq's success. The administration and the State Department must make more of an effort to utilize America's considerable diplomatic resources in order to rally international involvement in Iraq.

In rallying support, the U.S. should start by talking to all of Iraq's neighbors, including Iran and Syria. Iraq's sectarian violence, while rooted in centuries old conflicts, is being at least partially fueled by Iran and Syria. Consequently, the United States must be willing to work with Iran and Syria as well as all other nations in the region and around the world. But talking does not mean ceding to all requests that these countries make. Iran must not become a nuclear power and Syria must not once again move into Lebanon. But the United States should be willing to engage with these and other nations if we are to move forward with international cooperation on Iraq.

As part of bringing the world community together, the U.S. should call an international conference on Iraq. This conference will work on putting together an international peacekeeping force that will replace American and other troops that are currently in Iraq. A second purpose of this conference will be to put together an international reconstruction plan for Iraq. Iraq still suffers from critical shortages in electricity and drinking water, while infrastructure such as oil wells and roads remain in a state of disrepair. Many Iraqis remain unemployed and impoverished, making them easy recruits for sectarian militias and terrorist groups. While Congress must be given more complete information and oversight over U.S. reconstruction aid being sent to Iraq so that American money can be spent more effectively, the international community must also be called upon to provide other aid and plans for Iraq's rebuilding.

Second, the United States should join with other nations to arrange a peace conference—akin to the meetings that led to the Dayton Accords—that will bring together Iraqi leaders to achieve important goals in national reconciliation, security, and governance. Broad-based pressure from a variety of international sources can make a difference in situations like Iraq's, as evidenced by the 1995 Dayton Accords that ended the war in Bosnia. Much like the current conflict in Iraq, the war in Bosnia was fueled by ethnic and religious divisions. However, after intense pressure from the international community, the warring parties came to the negotiating table in Dayton, Ohio and an agreement was reached. With similar international pressure applied to Iraqi leaders, and promises of international peacekeeping forces and increased reconstruction aid, it is my hope that Iraq's warring factions would peacefully come to the negotiating table. Peace discussions could take place in a country seen as a more neutral arbitrator than the U.S. such as El Salvador, which has proven its commitment to Iraqi stability by providing over 300 soldiers for peacekeeping operations. El Salvador would serve as a good

location because it is physically far away from Iraq and provides an easily secured environment. In addition, El Salvador has special standing because it has had experience with its own civil war and subsequent aftermath.

Third, the administration must be required to give Congress detailed reports on the situation in Iraq, especially in regard to security and progress on reconstruction. One of the reasons Iraq has reached this point is that the Republican Congress gave the administration free rein on Iraq policy without asking questions. The Democratic Congress must, and will, act differently. The start will be bringing the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, military commanders, the members of the Iraq Study Group, and other leading experts on Iraq to testify before congressional committees. Also, we must require from the administration a written, detailed report on the current security and reconstruction situation in Iraq with mandatory monthly follow-up reports.

Up to this point it appears that decisions regarding Iraq have been made based upon politics and not facts, political calculation instead of national interest. There is no place for partisan politics when it comes to the use of military force. The lives of our brave men and women should not be affected by political whims. That is why Congress must demand information from the administration. When Congress is fully informed we will be able to make intelligent decisions, based on our national interest, about when U.S. forces can be redeployed from Iraq. I believe that with congressional oversight and greater international involvement, U.S. troops will be able to start redeployment from Iraq in 2007, with or without the President's leadership.

Clearly, America needs a new direction in Iraq. President Bush is scheduled to announce his new plan very soon. Since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, nothing that this administration has done has yet proven to be successful in Iraq. But I will wait to hear the President and I will listen to the congressional hearings before I make a final decision on his proposal. However, if President Bush were to follow the three-point proposal laid out here, we would truly be moving forward in a new direction that will help stabilize Iraq and bring our troops home soon.

HONORING WESLEY AUTREY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to and to honor the recent heroics of Wesley Autrey, the selfless New Yorker who this past week jumped in front of a subway train to save a stranger that had fallen below.

As we begin the difficult task of putting America back on track, we can all draw inspiration from this 50-year-old Harlem father, The construction worker was with his two daughters waiting for the train when he noticed that film student Cameron Hollopeter had suffered a seizure. The Navy veteran and two other strangers immediately rushed to the 20-year-old's aid. Autrey helped stabilize him, sticking a pen in his mouth to prevent him from swallowing his tongue.

Yet, just when it appeared that he was fine, Hollopeter had a relapse and stumbled off the subway platform. With a No. 1 train fast approaching, Autrey made a split second decision to put this young man's life ahead of his own. He jumped down and pinned Hollopeter between the rails, shielding him from harm's way.

In the days since that split second decision, Autrey has been deservedly lavished with tons of media attention and honors. Not surprisingly, the humble Autrey has been caught off guard. He wasn't thinking of the fame or glory. All he could think about, he says, was his girls—six-year-old Shuqui and four-year-old Syshe. He didn't want them to see a man die before their eyes. He didn't want them to witness their father do nothing to stop the blood and the screams that could follow.

He asked himself, how will I be judged? Will it be said that I had the opportunity to help and just sat there to do nothing. His conscience wouldn't let him be still—and neither should any of us.

We live in a time of great imbalance. In the midst of great prosperity, far too many are struggling to just keep their head above water. Far too many are disconnected from opportunity and hope.

We must follow the example set by Mr. Autrey and not sit on the sidelines while injustice and tragedy unfolds before our eyes. We must ask ourselves: did we do all that we could to help our fellow brothers and sisters? What did we do to help better the world?

Wesley Autrey has done his duty. Now it's time to do ours.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2007 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDES RAT EXCHANGE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and interact on issues of mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany from April 20 to 29 of this year. During this 2-week exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag/Bundesrat members, Bundestag and Bundesrat party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic, and media agencies. Participants also will be hosted by a Bundestag member during a district visit.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States for 2 weeks July 14 to 22. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington and visit the districts of Members of Congress. The U.S. delegation is expected to facilitate these meetings.

The Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and the United States, and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and

policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to the United States and Germany such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues. This year's delegation should be familiar with transatlantic relations within the context of recent world events.

In addition, U.S. participants are expected to help plan and implement the program for the Bundestag/Bundesrat staff members when they visit the United States. Participants are expected to assist in planning topical meetings in Washington, and are encouraged to host one or two staffers in their Member's district in July, or to arrange for such a visit to another Member's district.

Participants are selected by a committee composed of personnel from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and past participants of the exchange.

Members of the House and Senate who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a resume and cover letter in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated.

Applications may be sent to the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, HB-28, the Capitol, by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 21, 2007.

RECOGNIZING AUSTIN ABARR FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Austin Abarr, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 45, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Austin has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Austin has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Austin Abarr for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am hon-

ored to represent Austin in the United States House of Representatives.

IMPLEMENTING THE 9/11 COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call upon my colleagues to address the very real threat to the security of rail passengers in America. I am a supporter of the 9/11 Commission Bill and commend the Speaker and Chairman THOMPSON for their leadership in at long last implementing the basic reforms directed by the 9/11 Commission.

But the 9/11 Commission's recommendations were but a first step. Since the Commission completed its work, the evolution of terrorism has continued in countries around our planet, and we cannot turn a blind eye to the vulnerabilities that we face in this Nation—particularly those vulnerabilities that are being routinely targeted by terrorists in other parts of the world. Most notably, as demonstrated by the bombings in Madrid in 2004, London in 2005, and Mumbai in 2006—the passenger rail and transit system in this country is a high-risk target and we must address this critical security need immediately.

We rightfully have devoted extensive efforts towards securing aviation, but now it is time to devote significant resources towards one of this country's most vital economic assets.

Each weekday, there are 11.3 million passengers using some form of rail and mass transit. That's more than 5 times as many people taking air passenger trips. At New York's Penn Station alone—there are over half a million people passing through; that is more passengers than at our two busiest air hubs—Chicago and Atlanta—combined. And yet, on average, we have spent \$9 per air passenger compared to 1 penny per rail and mass transit passenger.

The Secretary of Homeland Security often states that it is the management of risk and not the elimination of risk that is the core principle for DHS—and the management of risk requires the prioritization of risk based on three key components: threat, vulnerability, and consequence.

Passenger rail facilities have a high passenger density, which creates the potential for a spectacular attack that is intended to instill fear—we know this is what our enemies look for when planning attacks. We know that they have already mounted vicious attacks in Madrid, London, and Mumbai over the last 3 years, and even before 9/11—in Paris and Tokyo. This threat is real, it is serious, and it is not going away.

We also know that if anything were to happen to disrupt our passenger rail system, the economic consequences and impacts on our way of life would be devastating.

Finally, we know that most of our major passenger rail facilities are old, in some cases falling apart, lack modern security enhancements built into the station design, and would

be unable to recover quickly from even a minor attack. They have not been retrofitted, reinforced, or rebuilt in ways consistent with today's threat environment.

Thus, our passenger rail system is clearly at a high risk based on all three components—threat, vulnerability, and consequence. And this risk must be managed better.

Now some people argue that because the rail system in our country is open and dynamic and therefore impossible to secure like other parts of the transportation system, that we should not spend a lot of money trying—that it becomes a “slippery slope.” To the contrary, to do nothing in the face of such demonstrated high risk is irresponsible.

Rail and transit authorities have made efforts to improve security. However, authorities are having a difficult time identifying resources that can be used for capital improvements. In fact, between 2001 and 2003 over \$1.7 billion was spent on security efforts for rail and transit by state and local authorities, but 75 percent was used just for overtime and other labor-intensive security operating expenses. While these measures are a key part of securing open facilities like rail stations, their costs leave very little money for the much needed capital investments in security.

The American Public Transportation Association estimated that it cost State and local transportation authorities nearly \$1 million a day during the 36 days of high alert status after the July 2005 London bombings—and this number does not even include the costs incurred in the additional efforts of New York and New Jersey's random searches.

No matter what we may have planned, the fact is that we will end up devoting tremendous resources should there be a rail attack. I would rather see us be strategic in our investments than be reactive every time a new threat is evident. Targeted investments in capital security enhancements at our most critical, high-risk locations will serve us during normal and heightened alerts and can possibly reduce our operating costs by leveraging the capability of people on the scene.

The Federal Government does not have to do this alone. We constantly hear about the importance of public-private partnerships, yet we have few positive examples to point at. The rail system has the opportunity to leverage the investments of private developers who seek to benefit from transit-oriented development. As we address capital security investments in passenger rail facilities, Congress should acknowledge and even encourage these public-private partnerships by providing a way for private developers to be guaranteed that the Federal Government's commitment to long-term projects is real. The current homeland security annual grant cycle is a road block for these larger projects, and it is critical to our Nation's security and fiscal well-being that we take advantage of such investment opportunities as they arise.

From 9/11 through 2005 we have spent approximately \$20 billion on aviation security, but only \$500 million on rail and transit security. We can and must do better than this. I call on my colleagues to join me in this Congress to address the critical issue of capital investments in our rail passenger security.

After Madrid and London, we can have no more excuses.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on roll-call vote No. 15; On passage (H.R. 1). Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM DUNKER
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Dunker, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William Dunker for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent William in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE BRAVERY AND
SACRIFICE OF NATHANIEL
AGUIRRE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, it has been said that a hero is someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with their freedom. Nathaniel Aguirre, 21 years old, certainly understood that degree of responsibility.

At just 17, Nathaniel enlisted in the United States Army Reserve and attended basic combat training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. After graduating from Creekview High School, he completed additional military training and was deployed to Iraq in December 2005.

On the morning of October 22, 2006, Nathaniel was on combat patrol in a village in western Baghdad. After his detachment encountered enemy fire, they confronted the enemy head on in a fight that would tragically cost Nathaniel his life. On that morning, a hero was not born—a hero was revealed.

Nathaniel leaves behind his parents and treasured younger sister Melissa, who had known her brother as a hero long before it was revealed to the rest of us.

Among the many honors bestowed in memory of his heroic acts, Nathaniel was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the

Purple Heart, and the Army Good Conduct Medal. While these honors will never bring him back, they serve as markers in our Nation's history, identifying Nathaniel Aguirre as an American who understood his degree of responsibility to our Nation and his fellow Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 366 TO
DESIGNATE THE DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUT-
PATIENT CLINIC IN TULSA,
OKLAHOMA, AS THE ERNEST
CHILDERS DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS OUT-
PATIENT CLINIC

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, this evening, I introduced H.R. 366, legislation to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma as the Ernest Childers VA Outpatient Clinic to honor one of our Nation's finest military heroes.

Ernest Childers holds the distinction of being the first Native American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic action in 1943 at the battle of Oliveto, Italy, when he charged German machine gun nests against machine gun fire. Although suffering a broken foot in the assault, Childers ordered covering fire and advanced up a hill, single-handedly killing two snipers, silencing two machine gun nests and capturing an enemy mortar observer. His courageous action helped American troops win the battle and save the lives of American soldiers. Childers was also awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his actions.

Born in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Childers enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard in 1937 to earn extra money while attending the Chilocco Indian School in north-central Oklahoma. While stationed at Fort Sill in Oklahoma, he was deployed to Africa to fight in World War II. Childers retired from the Army in 1965 as a lieutenant colonel but remained very active in the Tulsa community serving Indian youth, which led to the naming of a middle school in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, in his honor in 1985.

As a proud Creek Indian, in 1966, Childers was honored by the Tulsa Chapter of the Council of American Indians as "Oklahoma's most outstanding Indian." Of his military service in World War II, Childers once said, "The American Indian has only one country to defend, and when you're picked on, the American Indian never turns his back." A fitting quote from a man who exemplified courage under fire and dedication to defending our Nation.

Until his death on March 17, 2005, Childers was Oklahoma's last Congressional Medal of Honor recipient still living in the State. I am proud to introduce this legislation to honor his life and legacy. We were honored to have him grace us with his model character, defend us with his bravery, and leave us all with a life well-lived.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND ROBERT
W. RAWLS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Robert W. Rawls who is honored by the clergy and congregation of Vernon Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church on Sunday, January 14 in my hometown of Flint, MI.

Reverend Rawls began his life of Christian service at Vernon Chapel. His parents, Johnny and Corrie Rawls were two of Vernon Chapel's founding members. They instilled in their son love for Our Lord and a desire to serve him. Reverend Rawls began his life of service as a Sunday School teacher, a member of the choir and a member of the Steward Board. He also served as the Superintendent of the Sunday School.

In 1976 he answered God's call to the ministry. Two years later he organized a Mission located at North and Gillespie Streets. He went street by street for 40 blocks talking to people and inviting them to come and worship. The first service was held on June 19, 1978. One person joined his congregation and his wife, Estelle, provided the music.

Continuing to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, the Mission grew and the congregation was able to purchase the building. The Presiding Elder, Martin L. Sims, authorized Reverend Reuben Russell to organize the Mission into a Church in 1980 and Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was admitted into the Annual Conference. Reverend Rawls drew on his faith in God to continue working to bring people to Jesus Christ. Year after year, he held nightly street services from July through September. He worked to improve the Church and in 1996 completed the conversion of the former storefront to a Church edifice. For 22 years he served faithfully as a minister and pastor, retiring in 2002.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the life and work of Reverend Robert W. Rawls as his family and friends at Vernon Chapel embrace him. He has devoted his life to doing God's work and the Flint community is a better place because of his compassion, commitment, and actions. I wish him the best as he enjoys his retirement.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL DUNN FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Dunn, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 45, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with

Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Dunn for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Michael in the United States House of Representatives.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH FORD

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise a truly good man. With the passing of President Gerald Ford, the House of Representatives lost its most distinguished alumni, and America lost a great patriot who always placed his country's good ahead of his own political interest. Gerald Ford was a man of absolute integrity and profound personal decency.

Much has been said about President Ford's distinguished career in the House and as President. Many will rightly recall his absolute integrity and his profound personal decency. To build upon those remarks, I would like to share some of my personal interactions with Gerald Ford. I had the honor of meeting and working with former President Ford on many occasions after he left office. I found him to be the same man in private that he was in public—decent, honorable, and self-deprecating in his humor and observations. He was shrewd without being devious and wise without being complicated.

Madam Speaker, President Ford had genuine connections to and affection for Oklahoma and Oklahomans. He told me on several occasions that he became Vice President and ultimately President because of the late Speaker Carl Albert of Oklahoma, who supported his nomination for the Vice Presidency. He always remembered that Oklahoma was one of only two Southern States that he carried in 1976. Indeed, once while making this point to me, he recalled the exact margin of victory—13,266 out of over 1 million cast.

Madam Speaker, during a memorable 1976 campaign stop in Oklahoma, President Ford said, "It's great to be in Oklahoma, the home of Will Rogers, who never met a man he didn't like, and the Oklahoma Sooners, who never played a team they couldn't beat." I later told him that single line won Oklahoma for him. "Well," he responded, "talking college football is pretty good politics in a lot of places. You might try it if you're ever campaigning in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, or just about anywhere in the South." It is still one of the best pieces of advice I ever got from a practicing politician.

President Ford paired his intelligence with empathy and his candor with modesty. He was as politically astute as he was personally decent, something that all too many people forget. He was absolutely loyal to his party while still approaching politics in a pragmatic and bipartisan manner that made genuine political compromise possible. The House was all the better because of his character, and so too was our country. When speaking to the

Congress, the President said with his usual humility that he was a Ford, not a Lincoln. Today, only the best among us might be able to call themselves Fords.

We will all miss him very much, Madam Speaker, and I strongly urge support of H. Res. 15.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 14 on the motion to recommit (H.R. 1). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING TIM LEININGER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tim Leininger, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tim has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tim has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tim Leininger for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Tim in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING SOUTHLAKE CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE 5A DIVISION I FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the 2006 Southlake Carroll High School football team, which on Saturday, December 23, 2006, earned the title of 5A Division I State Champions and finished its season a perfect 16–0.

The Dragons rallied in the second half to deliver a 43–29 come-from-behind victory over Austin Westlake and on that day it was clear to everyone in the Alamodome that the Southlake Carroll Dragons are a genuine Texas high school football dynasty. In seven seasons under Head Coach Todd Dodge, the Dragons have amassed a 98–11 overall record and have gone 79–1 in the past 5 years. The team has won three consecutive national titles, won the last four of five State championships and has tied the Texas high school record with seven state titles. This

year, Southlake Carroll is also ranked as the consensus No. 1 team in the country by seven national polls. The Dragons have shown they are simply the best high school football program in decades.

Throughout its historic championship runs, Southlake Carroll has represented the ideal virtues of amateur athletic programs—teamwork, tenacity, competitiveness and dignity—and its immaculate seasons will be recounted for generations to come throughout the state of Texas.

I could not be more proud than to represent Southlake Carroll High School in Congress, and I congratulate the players, coaches, fans and parents who made the 2006 season such a memorable one.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, due to important congressional business, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below: rollcall No. 12: "no"; rollcall No. 13: "yes"; rollcall No. 14: "no"; rollcall No. 15: "yes."

RECOGNIZING SEAN MCCALMON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sam McCalmon, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Sean has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sean McCalmon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Sean in the United States House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am writing to notify you that I was absent for votes on January 4 and 5, 2007. The reason for my absence was that I had a

death in my immediate family that required me to remain in South Carolina.

Regarding the votes that I missed please see below for the way that I would have voted had I been present: rollcall vote No. 3—On Ordering the Previous Question—“nay”; rollcall vote No. 4—On Motion to Commit with Instructions—“yea”; rollcall vote No. 5—On Agreeing to the Resolution—“nay”; rollcall vote No. 6—On adoption of Title I of the Resolution—“yea”; rollcall vote No. 7—On adoption of Title 2 of the Resolution—“yea”; rollcall vote No. 8—On adoption of Title 3 of the Resolution—“yea”; rollcall vote No. 9—On adoption of Title 4 of the Resolution—“nay”; rollcall vote No. 10—On Motion to Commit with Instructions—“yea”; rollcall vote No. 11—On adoption of Title 4 of the Resolution—“nay.”

TRIBUTE TO PAULA STONITSCH

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor beloved teacher Paula Stonitsch of Petaluma, California, who passed away December 13 at the age of 90. Mrs. Stonitsch was that special kind of teacher who, like many wonderful educators across the country, is remembered for a lifetime by the children she inspired.

For over 40 years, Paula taught at Petaluma High School where my four children—and many others—learned to care about their government and to understand how it works. Her own children were also in her classes, where she reminded them that they must earn their grades like everyone else. She also taught night classes at Santa Rosa Junior College, SRJC.

Born in San Francisco in 1916 to German-speaking immigrants who had high ambitions for their children, Paula Girbony went on to attend UC Berkeley, majoring in German and history, graduated from Valparaiso University in Indiana, and earned a teaching credential at UC Berkeley.

In 1941 she married Gottfried Stonitsch of Petaluma, whom she had met through friends of relatives there. She moved to Petaluma to join him and began teaching German and American history at the high school in 1951 and German classes at SRJC in the 1960s. In 1962, Paula Stonitsch won a Fulbright Exchange Teaching Scholarship which enabled her to teach for a year in Germany where she conducted her classes in German. She retired from Petaluma High School in 1990 but continued teaching at the JC until shortly before her death.

As the founder of a group called the Nut Ladies at St. John Lutheran Church in Petaluma, Paula was also known for her energies in supporting the church. Her group picked and sold walnuts, with the proceeds benefiting St. John.

Paula is survived by daughters Elizabeth Ravenscroft, Adrianna Rodgers, and Erika Stonitsch and sister Gisela Krueger.

Madam Speaker, teachers like Paula Stonitsch offer a rare gift to our young people, a gift that truly gives back to our country as these students grow up to become our citizens and our leaders. The generations of Petaluma children who were fortunate enough to study

with her will never forget the lessons she taught and the pride they learned.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2007

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in reluctant opposition to Title IV of H. Res. 6, adopting the rules of the 110th Congress. This title purports to uphold a commitment to fiscal responsibility, but in actuality it includes a mechanism by which the new majority may increase taxes for hard-working Americans. Ultimately, this title could facilitate tax increases while preventing tax relief measures for millions of Americans. Instead, the House should reaffirm our commitment to fiscal responsibility by passing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution so that Congress does not spend more than it takes in.

To be clear, I do support an important provision contained in Title IV—namely, the provision concerning the long-overdue reform for congressional earmarks. I have long supported measures to bring transparency and accountability to the earmarking process to ensure that the American people know their money is not being squandered. In fact, I proudly supported H.R. 4975, the Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act, as well as H. Res. 1000, both of which passed last year to amend the rules of the House to address earmark reform. These two measures were the first steps in ending the abuse of earmarks by a few members and increasing fiscal trust in Congress. I fully support the continuation of these efforts to crack down on earmark misuse and improve the financial transparency of our budget.

Regrettably, the important earmark reform provision of this title was coupled with a measure that could potentially increase taxes for all Americans. This provision, known as pay-as-you-go, or PAYGO, seems like a beneficial tool to fiscal responsibility on its face. PAYGO budgetary rules require new mandatory spending be offset by either other equal reductions in mandatory spending or by revenue increases. However, with plans for new direct spending programs and budgetary rules that do not accurately score the effect of tax reductions on future economic growth, PAYGO is really a policy of “tax and spend as you go.”

For this reason, I must reluctantly oppose this title. Instead, I will support the motion to commit, which will ensure Americans are not squeezed in their pocketbooks by requiring a three-fifths vote to pass any congressional tax hike. The three-fifths requirement was an important reform of the Contract with America, instituted in 1995 to protect Americans from unfair tax increases. By failing to guarantee this requirement, millions of American families and small businesses could be threatened by money grabs from greedy tax writers. This is not right. Over the past several years, our economy has seen levels of unprecedented growth as a result of the 2003 tax cuts. Today, with over seven million payroll jobs created and the Dow Jones Industrial Average at record highs, it would be irresponsible to jeopardize the economic progress we have made.

In addition, I call for the House of Representatives to consider H.J. Res. 1, which proposes a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States. I have joined over 100 of my fiscally responsible and forward-thinking colleagues in cosponsoring this bill, which is a real solution to deficit spending. For the first time ever, this amendment would put it in our Constitution—in the very fabric of our democracy—that taxpayers’ money belongs to them and that Congress has the obligation of spending it carefully and responsibly. I wholeheartedly support this vital amendment and I sincerely hope this House will uphold our commitment to our constituents by considering and passing H.J. Res. 1.

Again, I cannot support Title IV of H. Res. 6 because it allows for a needless increase of the financial burden on all American families. Instead, I support the motion to commit and the Balanced Budget Amendment as real steps forward in reducing the tax burden on American families and committing ourselves to true fiscal responsibility. Our obligation to hardworking taxpayers deserve no less.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH FORD

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the legacy of former President Gerald R. Ford.

Although I never served with President Ford personally, I admire him for his record as a leader in the House of Representatives, and later for accepting one of the greatest challenges an individual can assume—the Presidency of the United States of America.

In the past couple of weeks, we have heard many historians talk about President Ford’s legacy of healing our nation in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal. At the time, he was sharply criticized for his decision to pardon President Richard Nixon, but now he has been lauded for moving this country forward. I think they are right. I admire him for the courage he had in making what was arguably one of the most difficult decisions a sitting president has ever made.

As a Midwesterner myself, I would like to think that it was some of the values and experiences that President Ford had while growing up in Michigan that helped shape him into the courageous and good-natured leader that he later became.

While President Ford played football for what we Ohio State University fans refer to as “the team up north,” he demonstrated his good-natured personality the day that he gave the university’s 1974-commencement address. It was just a few weeks after he became president and legendary football coach Woody Hayes was still at OSU. According to a recent story in The Columbus Dispatch, he said: “We just had our picture taken together and when that picture appears in today’s Dispatch, I’m pretty sure what the caption will say,” Ford said. “Woody Hayes and friend.”

President Ford loved our country, and he served it with integrity, which helped restore the public’s confidence in the presidency.

I proudly join my colleagues in honoring him with this resolution, and expressing our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Betty Ford and her family.

21ST ANNUAL CHILI BOWL MIDGET
NATIONALS TULSA, OKLAHOMA

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, this week-end marks the 21st Annual Chili Bowl Midget Nationals held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This great event, which was founded in 1987, is organized by Emmett Hahn and Lanny Edwards, recent inductees into the National Midget Auto Racing Hall of Fame. The Chili Bowl is referred to as midget racing's answer to the Super Bowl.

This annual event draws thousands of people to the Tulsa area from around the country and will bring in an estimated \$12 million to Tulsa's economy. The Chili Bowl itself, held in the Tulsa Expo Center, is an exciting four nights of super powered midget vehicles racing on a quarter-mile clay oval track.

The Chili Bowl draws everyone from amateur drivers to NASCAR champions, who view this event as a great way to spend their off season. This year's event will feature Kasey Kahne, who drives for Evernham Motorsports in the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series, and Tony Stewart, who drives for Joe Gibbs Racing in the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series and was the Chili Bowl champion in 2002. In addition, reigning Chili Bowl champion Tim McCreadie will be there to defend his title.

I would like to welcome all the fans and participants to Tulsa and hope that they have a fun, safe event.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH NELSON

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the patriotism and military service of Mr. Keith Nelson of Fleming, Colorado.

Mr. Nelson was born in Sterling, Colorado, and served in the Army in the Pacific theater during World War II from 1944 to 1946. During his military service, he witnessed an incredibly significant moment in history, the end of the Battle of Okinawa. I believe his story is most worthy of being preserved in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

It was close to the end of the fighting in Okinawa, when L Company, 32nd Regiment, 7th Infantry Division had been assigned the task of taking a grove of trees near the southern tip of the island, one of the last pockets of Japanese resistance. Mr. Nelson's platoon was led by a former marine who wanted the glory of reaching the ocean first. As they entered the trees, an American flame throwing tank came up behind them; it had probably been assigned the job of burning the brush and flushing out any concealed Japanese soldiers.

Being the scout of the platoon, Mr. Nelson was assigned the job of stopping the tank. He

went warily back, and walked up very close to the tank, and shouted at the soldiers inside. They hadn't seen Nelson, and when they heard him, they threw the flamethrower in his face. He jumped back and began yelling so they would know he wasn't the enemy and, fortunately they calmed down.

When Nelson got back to his company, his platoon leader rushed them through the grove as fast as they could go. If enemy soldiers had been in there, they would all have been dead.

They kept moving until they could see the edge of the cliff bordering the water; their leader had achieved his objective. As platoon scout, Mr. Nelson was the first to look upon that glorious scene, the end of the Battle of Okinawa. And though he didn't know it at the time, that made him the first to see the end of fighting in World War II.

After the war, Keith returned to Colorado and married Wanda Moncrief in 1948. They had four sons, Dennis, Brett, Elon, and Gary. Mr. Nelson currently resides in Fleming, Colorado.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for Mr. Nelson's selfless service to our Nation. His story should be preserved for posterity. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man worthy of our honor, Mr. Keith Nelson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on roll call No. 13; On agreeing to the Resolution (H. Res. 35). Had I been present, I would have voted "No."

RECOGNIZING BRAD BAILEY FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brad Bailey, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

I join with his family and friends in expressing best wishes on his significant achievement. I commend Brad on attaining such a high honor and his superior contributions in his community. In addition, Brad has shown much patriotism by serving me in two of my offices as an intern. I am sure he will continue to hold such high standards in the future.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brad Bailey for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Brad in the United States House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING REBEKAH
FRIEND FOR HER APPOINTMENT
AS THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE ARIZONA AFL-CIO

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. PASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to congratulate Ms. Rebekah Friend for her appointment as the new executive director of the Arizona AFL-CIO. In this capacity she will manage the day-to-day operations of the organization. Through this appointment, Ms. Friend is once again making history in Arizona's labor movement by being the first woman appointed to this position. Previously, she was the first female president of the Arizona AFL-CIO chapter.

Ms. Friend began her labor career in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers over 25 years ago. During her time as president of the Arizona AFL-CIO, Ms. Friend led numerous initiatives aimed at advancing the working conditions of Arizona's workers, such as improving unemployment insurance and worker's compensation for union members. Additionally, Ms. Friend has worked arduously to raise awareness of the plight of immigrant workers. During this past election season, she also chaired the Minimum Wage Coalition, which successfully helped pass proposition 202 to increase Arizona's minimum wage.

Apart from her work at the Arizona AFL-CIO, Ms. Friend has also served in official capacities with the Arizona Consumer Council, Arizona Citizen Action, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Southern Poverty Law Center, Habitat for Humanity, and Emerge Arizona. She was the YWCA's 2004 Woman of the Year and was presented with a lifetime achievement award by the Arizona Democratic Party in 2002.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ms. Rebekah Friend for her recent appointment and to express my gratitude for her determination in fighting for the rights of all of Arizona's workers.

HONORING RALPH MOORE

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Ralph Moore of Visalia, California, who will celebrate his 100th birthday on January 14, 2007.

Mr. Moore has devoted his life as an innovative agriculturist. He founded Sequoia Nursery in Visalia, California in 1937 with \$800 and a dream of hybridizing miniature roses. His dream became reality, and it continues to thrive today.

Mr. Moore's achievements go beyond his entrepreneurial accomplishments. He has introduced more than 500 roses onto the market, mainly miniatures. He has received the American Rose Society's "Award of Excellence" for 20 of his miniature rose introductions, as well as being honored with other prestigious national and international awards over the years. In 2004, the City of Visalia

honored Mr. Moore with the dedication of the "Ralph Moore Miniature Rose Garden Memorial Park."

Ralph Moore is part of the rich heritage that makes Visalia and the entire Central Valley of California an enjoyable and interesting place to live.

I sincerely wish Ralph Moore a wonderful 100th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 12; on motion to recommit (H. Res. 35). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING JOEY M. SAUNDERS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joey Saunders, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joey has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joey has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. It is with extreme pleasure that I commend the dedication Joey has shown.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joey for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am proud to represent Joey in the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO GARY FRONTIERS SERVICE CLUB

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his untimely death, reminds us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our Nation. It lives

on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District will be recognized during the 28th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Monday, January 15, 2007, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

This year, the Gary Frontiers Club will pay tribute to several local individuals who have for decades unselfishly contributed to improving the human condition of others in the City of Gary. Those individuals who will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast include: Barbara Cope, the late Reverend Hezekiah Stewart Malone, Jr., Roy Pratt, and Finis Springer. Additionally, Maurice John Preston, Sr. will be honored with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award, an award given out annually to an outstanding individual of the Gary community.

Though very different in nature, the achievements of all of these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and rose to the occasion. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love. They set goals and worked to achieve them.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Gary Frontiers Service Club president, Mr. Oliver J. Gilliam, breakfast chairman, Mr. Clorius L. Lay, and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to making Northwest Indiana a better place for all who live and work there.

FIRST, DO LESS HARM IN MEDICARE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, as we vote later this week on negotiating better prices for Part D drugs in Medicare, we must remember that the debate is about much more than prescription drugs. Requiring the Secretary to negotiate for lower drug prices is just one small step in the fight against Medicare privatization and the conservative push to end the Medicare entitlement.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the Paul Krugman Op-Ed from the January 5, 2007, edition of the New York Times be printed in the RECORD.

FIRST, DO LESS HARM

(By Paul Krugman)

Universal health care, much as we need it, won't happen until there's a change of management in the White House. In the meantime, however, Congress can take an important step toward making our health care system less wasteful, by fixing the Medicare Middleman Multiplication Act of 2003.

Officially, of course, it was the Medicare Modernization Act. But as we learned during the debate over Social Security, in Bushspeak "modernize" is a synonym for

"privatize." And one of the main features of the legislation was an effort to bring private-sector fragmentation and inefficiency to one of America's most important public programs.

The process actually started in the 1990s, when Medicare began allowing recipients to replace traditional Medicare—in which the government pays doctors and hospitals—with private managed-care plans, in which the government pays a fee to an H.M.O. The magic of the marketplace was supposed to cut Medicare's costs.

The plan backfired. H.M.O.'s received fees reflecting the medical costs of the average Medicare recipient, but to maximize profits they selectively enrolled only healthier seniors, leaving sicker, more expensive people in traditional Medicare. Once Medicare became aware of this cream-skimming and started adjusting payments to reflect beneficiaries' health, the H.M.O.'s began dropping out: their extra layer of bureaucracy meant that they had higher costs than traditional Medicare and couldn't compete on a financially fair basis.

That should have been the end of the story. But for the Bush administration and its Congressional allies, privatization isn't a way to deliver better government services—it's an end in itself. So the 2003 legislation increased payments to Medicare-supported H.M.O.'s, which were renamed Medicare Advantage plans. These plans are now heavily subsidized.

According to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, an independent federal body that advises Congress on Medicare issues, Medicare Advantage now costs 11 percent more per beneficiary than traditional Medicare. According to the Commonwealth Fund, which has a similar estimate of the excess cost, the subsidy to private H.M.O.'s cost Medicare \$5.4 billion in 2005.

The inability of private middlemen to win a fair competition against traditional Medicare was embarrassing to those who sing the praises of privatization. Maybe that's why the Bush administration made sure that there is no competition at all in Part D, the drug program. There's no traditional Medicare version of Part D, in which the government pays drug costs directly. Instead, the elderly must get coverage from a private insurance company, which then receives a government subsidy.

As a result, Part D is highly confusing. It's also needlessly expensive, for two reasons: the insurance companies add an extra layer of bureaucracy, and they have limited ability to bargain with drug companies for lower prices (and Medicare is prohibited from bargaining on their behalf). One indicator of how much Medicare is overspending is the sharp rise in prices paid by millions of low-income seniors whose drug coverage has been switched from Medicaid, which doesn't rely on middlemen and does bargain over prices, to the new Medicare program.

The costs imposed on Medicare by gratuitous privatization are almost certainly higher than the cost of providing health insurance to the eight million children in the United States who lack coverage. But recent news analyses have suggested that Democrats may not be able to guarantee coverage to all children because this would conflict with their pledge to be fiscally responsible. Isn't it strange how fiscal responsibility is a big concern when Congress is trying to help children, but a nonissue when Congress is subsidizing drug and insurance companies?

What should Congress do? The new Democratic majority is poised to reduce drug prices by allowing—and, probably, requiring—Medicare to negotiate prices on behalf of the private drug plans. But it should go further, and force Medicare to offer direct

drug coverage that competes on a financially fair basis with the private plans. And it should end the subsidy to Medicare Advantage, forcing H.M.O.'s to engage in fair competition with traditional Medicare.

Conservatives will fight fiercely against these moves. They say they believe in competition—but they're against competition that might show the public sector doing a better job than the private sector. Progressives should support these moves for the same reason. Ending the subsidies to middlemen, in addition to saving a lot of money, would point the way to broader health care reform.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND UNITED STATES TERRITORIES CIRCULATING QUARTER DOLLAR PROGRAM ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, for the fourth time, the House has passed a bill to afford five insular areas and the District of Columbia a quarter bearing a design of their choice on the reverse side. Inadvertently, these Americans were excluded from the 50-State bill affording this same right to the States in 1998.

We owe very special thanks to the successive committee and subcommittee chairs and ranking members on the Financial Services Committee. We especially appreciate the new Chairman BARNEY FRANK who reached out to us to put this bill for consideration by the House on the suspension calendar.

Forty States have had their State design on the reverse side of the quarter with four more States to be added before this year is ended. All the coins are minted according to the year each State ratified the Constitution of the United States or were admitted into the Union. Although States have appropriate latitude, there are limitations as to what can be used as a design. According to Public Law 105-124, the Secretary of the Treasury has the final approval of each design. The law gives clear guidance as to what is an acceptable design concept. Suitable design concepts include State landmarks, landscapes, historically significant buildings, symbols of State resources or industries, official State flora and fauna, State icons, and outlines of States. Among the examples of suitable coins already in circulation are, New York's Statue of Liberty, Missouri's depiction of Lewis and Clark as they paddled down the Missouri River with the Gateway Arch in the background and North Carolina's design depicting the first successful airplane flight. We look forward to the day when the residents of the District of Columbia and of the insular areas can see similar symbols of their jurisdictions and of their American citizenship appear on coins as well.

This bill points out the importance of including all Americans in the symbols of American citizenship. The residents of the District and of the insular areas are full and equal American citizens. To leave them out of mere exercises of citizenship is to seem to deny the citizenship they revere and share with other Americans. The Americans who live in these districts have fought and died in our country's

wars and have extraordinary records of service in the Armed Forces in considerably larger numbers than many States. District citizens, in addition, pay Federal income taxes.

We in the Congress all represent proud Americans. There are, of course, significant differences between the States and the jurisdictions covered by this bill. However, qualification to be part of a program of quarter coins to commemorate congressional districts is not one of them. Under the Constitution, all Americans are equal, notwithstanding important differences in form, structure and other significant distinctions. Today, by including all Americans, Congress avoids any appearance of differential or discriminatory treatment and any implication that these areas are colonies, never the intention when the five jurisdictions were not included in the original bill in 1998, as the House has made clear by repeatedly bringing this bill to the floor.

Today, when our country is at war and faces unparalleled dangers, this bill is yet another example of our unity as Americans and our indivisibility in honoring all of our country's citizens. By repeatedly passing this measure, the House has made it abundantly clear that we are one country and that our hope is that the Senate will join us.

RECOGNIZING PETER FEHNER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Peter Fehner, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Peter has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Peter has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Peter Fehner for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Peter in the United States House of Representatives.

LET THE BULLET SPEAK

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, A bullet tells a story . . . Tells lawmen the gun it belongs to, identifies the outlaw that fired it. In Jefferson County, Texas, it proves an attempted capital murder.

Gang thugs—with disregard to the property of others—robbed a used-car lot in Port Arthur, TX. When the owner appeared, a coward amid the cloak of darkness fired his pistol.

Unaware he was an expert marksman, the wounded owner was able to return fire, striking the hidden gunman.

The bullet, pointing to the triggerman, now lays embedded in the suspect's forehead.

Refusing its removal, search warrants were issued ordering doctors to extract it.

Doctors backed down and have ignored the Judge's order. The excuse by the doctors: the removal would require the suspect to undergo surgery.

These doctors are confused who the real victim is. Not the outlaw with the mark of Cain, but the valiant survivor who took on his would-be assassin.

In direct defiance of a judge's order, citing the criminal's alleged right to deny treatment, these doctors have thumbed their noses, like insolent children, at our Nation's criminal justice system.

Madam Speaker, this ought not to be. Justice must be served . . . the bullet must tell its story.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING BRANDON HOCHSTEDLER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon Hochstedler, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 98, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brandon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandon Hochstedler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Brandon in the United States House of Representatives.

THE LIFE OF DR. MARY T. CHRISTIAN

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of a citizen of the City of Hampton, who has dedicated her life to making her city and the Commonwealth of Virginia a better place to live and learn. I would like to pay tribute to the contributions of retired Delegate Dr. Mary T. Christian.

In 1955, Dr. Christian graduated with highest honors from Hampton Institute, now Hampton University, with a B.S. in Elementary Education. From there she received a Master's Degree from Columbia University in

1960, and her Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 1967.

Dr. Christian began her civic service as a teacher at Aberdeen Elementary School in 1960 and held this position for 6 years before moving on to Hampton University. At Hampton, she started as an Instructor in the Education Department before becoming a Professor, then rose to Chair the Education Department in 1970, followed by becoming Dean of the School of Education in 1980, and in 1987 she became Professor Emeritus. Dr. Christian has been appointed to several committees with the Virginia Department of Education throughout her career.

Dr. Christian's educational career alone is worthy of celebration. But outside of the classroom, Dr. Christian was an effective state legislator, representing the 92nd District in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1986–2004. She served ably on the Appropriations, Education, and Rules Standing Committees, and was the Co-chair of the Militia and Police Committee. Dr. Christian was also selected to be a member of various General Assembly Commissions including the Joint Commission on Technology and Science, the Hampton Roads Third Crossing Bridge Tunnel Commission, and the Commission on Access and Diversity. Before I came to Congress, I had the pleasure to serve with Dr. Christian in the General Assembly and I know her to be a skilled public servant who keeps the needs of her constituents paramount in her mind while making decisions in Richmond.

Dr. Christian has received many awards and accolades throughout her career. She has been inducted into the Alpha Kappa Mu, Kappa Delta Pi, and Phi Beta Theta honor societies. She is an Honorary Board Member of the National Patient Advocate Foundation. She has received both the Merit Award for Community Service and the Award for Service to Youth from the NAACP. In 2002, Thomas Nelson Community College named the Mary T. Christian Auditorium after her. Dr. Christian is a member of First Baptist Church of Hampton and its Fellowship Choir, and is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., as well as a life member of the NAACP.

Locally, Dr. Christian was founder and leader of several civic and community organizations: Groups Representing Organizations United for Progress (GROUP); Leadership Development Caucus (LDC); Coalition for Community Pride and Progress (CCPP); Association for Restoration of Historic Cemeteries (ARHC); and Co-Chair of the Coalition for Preservation of the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled at Hampton.

On January 14, 2007, the Hampton Roads Community will come together and pay tribute to Dr. Christian for her many years of service. Proceeds from this tribute event will be used to establish the Dr. Mary T. Christian Scholarship Fund at Hampton University. I would like to congratulate Dr. Christian on her distinguished career of service to the citizens of Hampton Roads and the Commonwealth of Virginia and wish her well in her retirement.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD T.
STILLWELL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Stillwell, who, after spending the past 56 years as a firefighter in Pacific Grove, California, has finally decided to retire at the age of 76.

Richard grew up in Pacific Grove, and upon graduating from high school he submitted his application to the Pacific Grove Volunteer Fire Department. The following year he was promoted to a paid position as Fire Engineer. He worked as a paid firefighter for 11 years. In 1962, he resigned from the paid staff to pursue another career, but remained a vital member of the Volunteer Department. Richard was promoted to Volunteer Assistant Chief in 1995, and will hold the title of Honorary Volunteer Fire Chief upon his retirement. No other person in the history of the town has achieved this honorable rank.

Richard is known around town as "Mr. P.G.," and for good reason. He is involved in many community organizations and sponsors several scholarships for students at his alma mater, Pacific Grove High School. He is especially helpful to the young volunteer firemen and finds their enthusiasm for the service keeps him young. He was recently given the Department's highest honor, the Medal of Valor for his meritorious service. Special recognition must be given to his wife, Bev, and their family, for supporting him throughout his career. Over the years, there is no way to count how many birthday parties, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, and nights of sleep Richard missed while serving his town.

Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Richard Stillwell for the many years that he spent serving and protecting Pacific Grove.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH
FORD

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague and fellow Michigander, President Gerald R. Ford. I had the privilege of serving alongside then Congressman Ford in the United States House of Representatives for nearly a decade, and was able to observe firsthand the character and integrity of this "congressman's congressman." Congressman Ford's exemplary service was confirmed by the support of the people of Grand Rapids, Michigan, whose love for him endures to this day. As minority leader of this body, President Ford demonstrated the collegiality and uprightness he would draw upon to lead our Nation through a dark time in our history.

I disagreed with some of President Ford's decisions. Along with most of the American public at that time, I disapproved of the way he pardoned his predecessor before trial pro-

ceedings had been initiated. I also disagreed with many of his policy positions. However, time has shown that the man some have called the "accidental president" was the right person to take the highest office in the land at a critical time for our Nation.

Gerald Ford's honor and integrity were the qualities we needed to restore trust and openness to a damaged Presidency. His humble and steady leadership brought our democracy back from the brink of a constitutional crisis. The citizens of the state of Michigan and of our great Nation will not soon forget the important contributions of this man of integrity and honor.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF HIGHER AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education, founded 50 years ago by Dr. Algo Henderson at the University of Michigan with a grant from the Carnegie Foundation. Located in my district, the University of Michigan (UM) is a national leader in higher education and in cutting-edge research, equipping young minds with the best tools to confront the world's problems. Among the best at UM, the Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education is recognized as an innovator and emulated by higher education institutions across the Nation. Faculty at the Center seek to improve higher and postsecondary education from the perspectives of organizational behavior and management, public policy, academic affairs, student development, assessment, and evaluation. Today, the Center is headed by alumnus Dr. Deborah Faye Carter and staffed by scholars with expertise that spans a wide range of fields in the study.

The Center's faculty members provide valuable leadership to both the graduate students they teach and their colleagues in the field. Thanks to the contributions of the faculty, the Center's research continues to facilitate major initiatives in the field of higher education that respond to the evolving needs of our country.

Graduates of the Center continue into the world providing leadership as administrators and faculty in higher education institutions, as policymakers in governmental and policy agencies, as heads of professional associations, and as researchers in the field.

Current students at the Center are actively engaged in their academic work which is enriched by their many years of experience at liberal arts colleges, State and private universities and community colleges working as admissions directors and professionals in financial aid and faculty and student affairs. Many have served in State and Federal Government agencies and professional higher education associations as institutional researchers, policy analysts and planners. Their experiences at the Center will allow them to contribute to the study of higher education in the same outstanding manner as their faculty and those who have graduated before them.

Madam Speaker, this historic event is a source of pride for the University, the State of Michigan, and the field of higher education study. I ask you and all of my colleagues to rise and congratulate the Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education on its 50th anniversary and to commend its faculty and students for a job well done.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 12

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the current situation in Iraq; there is a possibility of a closed session in S-407 following the open session.

SH-216

JANUARY 16

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine economic opportunity and security for working families.

SD-430

2 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the plight of Iraqi refugees.

SD-226

JANUARY 17

9:30 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine conservation security program and environmental quality incentives program relating to working land conservation.

SR-328A

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine aviation security, focusing on the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.

SR-253

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine paying off generics to prevent competition with brand name drugs.

SD-226

JANUARY 18

9:30 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice.

SDG-50

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine Federal efforts for rail and surface transportation security.

SR-253

JANUARY 23

9:30 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine challenges and strategies for securing the U.S. border.

SD-226

JANUARY 24

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the state of the airline industry, focusing on the potential impact of airline mergers and industry consolidation.

SR-253

FEBRUARY 1

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the communications marketplace relating to the FCC.

SR-253